

**Report**

**Saharan  
Africa**

# Daily Report Sub-Saharan Africa

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28 May 1996

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## Burundi

### Burundi Army Commander—25 Rebels Killed in Clashes

EA3705171396 *Republique Radio-Télévision Nationale du Burundi Radio in English* 1130 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Commander of the 2d Military Region in Gitega, Colonel Anicet Ndayegombi, has announced that 25 rebels were killed in the weekend during clashes with the security forces. Col. Ndayegombi has also declared that calm has returned in Gitega and urged the families to resume their home. Bonaventure Ndayegombi reports:

[Ndayegombi] The Commander of the 2d Military Region, Col. Anicet Ndayegombi, declared that the enemy was flushed out of the neighboring hills of Gitega. On Saturday (25 May) the population reported to security forces the presence of rebels at Igiro, 4 km east of Gitega chief-town. The Army then moved in and fought with the rebels.

Fightings were tough and they lasted the whole day of Saturday and Friday afternoon (24 May) but Col. Ndayegombi declared that there are no casualties among the civilian populations. On the side of the rebels, 25 persons are said to have been killed and one government soldier was slightly injured.

Col. Ndayegombi has then commended the population of Igiro for reporting quickly the presence of rebel groups and for staying together regardless of their ethnic groups. In fact the population fled together at a small center nearby and was protected by the Army in the course of the fightings. [passage omitted]

## Central African Republic

### Central African Republic: Opposition Rejects Plan for "Broad-Based" Government

AE3405190396 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French* 1700 GMT 24 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ange-Félix Patassé today called for the formation of a very broad-based government. The priority task of this government will be to organize the Army national delegates conference. The disclosure was made on President Ange-Félix Patassé's behalf by his spokesman, Abel Dabolo. Let's hear Abel Dabolo:

[Abel Dabolo recording] The entire people must be able to come together in a move for general reconciliation in order to rebuild our country. To achieve this goal, the president of the Republic, therefore, calls for the formation of a very broad-based government. One of the priority assignments of this new government will

be to organize the Army general delegates conference in line with the pledges made by the president of the Republic on 22 April.

President Patassé confirms that all these pledges he has made will be duly honored in order to make our Army an elite force capable of defending the democratic process and Republican institutions with the assistance of all friendly countries. [end recording]

Following this statement by President Patassé's spokesman, Abel Dabolo, a key Central African opposition leader, Abel Goumba, has reacted. In his view, there is really nothing new about President Patassé's current proposal for the formation a broad-based government.

[Abel Goumba recording] Actually, it is precisely this broad-based government formula that was applied under former Prime Minister, Professor Luc Mandaba's regime, resulting in the formation of a presidential group, and this formula failed. The opposition has for a long time been calling for dialogue with the ruling government and for the union of all of CAR's active forces to build the country but Mr. Ange-Félix has always held that the Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People had elected him to power on the basis of his social program and that he must necessarily form a government that will permit the full implementation of this program. He had even reiterated this, I think, in November 1993 in an interview. So, he is, indeed, reviving an issue that clearly belongs to the past and which nobody wants to hear of at this material time. [end recording]

### Central African Republic: Armed Civilians Join Anti-French Protests

LD2505104896 *Paris LCI Television in French* 1000 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is a tense standoff this morning in the streets of the Central African capital Bangui between French troops and several thousand demonstrators and armed civilians. Philippe Got reports:

[Got] Despite the French Army's control of the Central African capital, several thousand people gathered this morning in the commercial district of Bangui, which has been totally devastated by looters. Watched from a distance by French Army paratroopers, the demonstrators have gathered behind a banner reading No to French intervention. According to observers on the scene, the standoff is tense and the presence of civilians carrying assault rifles among the demonstrators makes for a delicate situation.



The diplomatic framework into which the French Army has embarked does not appear to be working. Yesterday, General Thorette resumed talks with representatives of the mutineers, while President Patasse appealed for reconciliation. [passage omitted on Patasse's appeal]

Since yesterday all foreign nationals have been deserting and the Quai d'Orsay [French Foreign Ministry] reports there are only 150 to 200 more awaiting repatriation.

**Central African Republic: Mutineers Reportedly Ready To Return to Barracks**

LD2505114296 Paris LCI Television in French  
1150 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned that a spokesman for the mutineers has said that the mutineers were reportedly ready to go back to their barracks if several points for discussion were fulfilled, including in particular the signing of an amnesty for the mutineers.

**Central African Republic: Mutineers List Demands To End Crisis**

AB2505131996 Paris AFP in English  
1208 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangui, May 25 (AFP) — A spokesman for Army mutineers in the Central African Republic on Saturday [25 May] listed conditions under which he said he and his men would lay down arms and return to barracks, after a week-old revolt against the country's president.

Sergeant Cyriac Souke told AFP, shortly before heading into a third day of talks with the head of the French military, sent in to prop up the regime of President Ange-Felix Patasse, that "if several points of discussions" were met, the army mutineers were ready to "return to their barracks."

Souke, who was interviewed at the Kasai barracks, the mutineers' stronghold a few kilometers (miles) from central Bangui, said among the rebels' demands were the firing of the head of the presidential security unit and an amnesty for the mutineers.

Another spokesman for the rebel troops, Warrant Officer Isidore Dodoko, told AFP that the deadlock in discussions was "still the firing" of the head of the presidential guard, the key unit loyal to Patasse.

Dodoko estimated that the rebel troops, who mutinied a week ago, numbered "nearly 2,000 men."

The government, which has refused to negotiate until the rebels lay down arms, has no representatives taking part in the talks led by French General Bernard Thorette at a French military camp at the edge of the capital.

**Central African Republic: Red Cross Spokesman—Situation 'Total Anarchy'**

LD2505123396 Paris France-Inter Radio Network  
in French 1200 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An International Committee of the Red Cross spokesman has just reported that Red Cross teams were forced to stop giving emergency aid to the wounded and sick people in Bangui due to the situation, which has turned into total anarchy. A five-man team, who arrived yesterday as reinforcements, and members of the Central African Red Cross were forced to leave the hospital this morning and took refuge in the Red Cross buildings in Bangui.

**Central African Republic: Situation Deteriorates**

AB2505141096 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French  
1215 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today is a day of high risk in Bangui. Sympathizers and adversaries of the mutineers are planning to take to the streets today for different motives. The situation is explosive. Ulrich Beder of the International Red Cross is here giving details:

[Begin Beder recording] This morning, the situation deteriorated in a dramatic manner. Already yesterday, we had an incident during which a combatant directly attacked one of the vehicles of the Red Cross. This morning, the situation is such [changes thought], insecurity is general, doctors of the Red Cross have been threatened while just doing their job. We would like people to know about this unfortunate situation. The Red Cross, relief workers, and all people of good will, even the International Red Cross are forced to retreat back into their headquarters in Bangui because there is no longer even a minimum security and no more respect for the emblem of the Red Cross for us to continue our work. We hereby call upon all people concerned who are carrying weapons in Bangui, to please respect the emblem of the Red Cross because, for now, the wounded people, people who are sick, people who need medical or surgical assistance, can no longer be helped. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Mutineer Stresses Talks 'Very Positive'**

LD2505143196 Paris Radio France International  
in French 1230 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Warrant officer Isidore Dodoko, a spokesman for the mutineers, stressed this morning that the talks with the French General Bernard Thorette "are progressing very positively."

Jean-Jacques Louarne, special correspondent to Bangui, met at Kasai camp this morning with a mutineer who

said that the deadlock must be broken today. For him France is the centerpiece of the situation.

[Begin unidentified mutineer recording] The mutiny in the CAR is linked to the devaluation and the inflation imposed on African countries. France is the favored partner of the CAR. Why does it not intercede with President Patasse? We, the military, know that President Patasse was elected democratically and we insist on respecting the republican institutions.

Why not bring financial and material aid to the CAR? They send legionnaires who are more professional to come and destroy the regular army and the population. This is not normal. Our forefathers fought by the side of the French to free France, now France sends professional troops, the legionnaires. These people have no children and no parents and come to destroy the Central African people and a regular army. We say no to this. France must stop this. We want to break the deadlock today. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Calm Returns to Bangui After Protests**

AB2505144196 Paris AFP in French  
1244 GMT 25 May 96

[FBI Translated Text] Bangui, 25 May (AFP) — Calm returned early this afternoon to Bangui, where two demonstrations — one anti-French and the other pro-government — were held in the morning, the special AFP envoy observed.

At the beginning of the afternoon, the streets of the city center, where demonstrators hostile to the French military intervention in Central African Republic had gathered earlier on, were deserted. Only few groups of people moved around town, most of whom were looters stealing various items from some buildings in central Bangui.

The French soldiers were still at their positions in the streets of the city center, mostly the Boganda Avenue where the anti-French demonstrators gathered in the morning.

The demonstration organized this morning in support of the French and President Ange-Felix Patasse, on the road leading to the airport, by the pro-government Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People, had also dispersed early this afternoon. President Patasse was expected to hold a news conference in the middle of this afternoon, to which the international media was invited.

**Central African Republic: Party Official, Mutineer Comment on Situation**

AB2505164896 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French  
1215 GMT 25 Mar 96

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBI Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] In an interview with BBC yesterday, President Patasse called for international solidarity to help his country get out of this crisis situation. Yesterday, the same Ange-Felix Patasse in an address to the nation, proposed a broad-based government. Abel Deholo, advisor to President Patasse gives details on the tasks to be assigned to this government:

[Deholo] *One of the priority tasks of this new government will be to convene the top hierarchy of the Army, in accordance with the pledge made by the president of the Republic on 22 April and for which he confirms that the pledge will be respected so as to make our Army an elitist Army with the help of all friendly countries for the defense of democracy and republican institutions.*

[Announcer] President Ange-Felix Patasse's proposals raised several reactions in Bangui. [passage omitted]

Here is the reaction of Dr. Michel Koche Komba of the Republican Democratic Union, a centrist party.

[Komba] *I am afraid the weapons in the possession of people in Bangui will later be used to create an irreparable situation. There is, therefore, the risk of excess at all levels. So it does not make sense to convene only the top hierarchy of the Army. It is not only the Army which has problems: teachers, health workers, the youth, and everybody is facing problems. Dirty linen is washed within the family, and so all the people should be convened to enable everybody to speak out what he has to say. The government should listen to the people, and from these meetings a long-lasting organ which can help us get out of this impasse should be set up. In any case, the solution being envisaged now can only be a transitional one and not a long-lasting one.*

[Announcer] Along side this proposal for a broad-based government, the French general, (Bernard Torret), continues his negotiations with the mutineers, who say they are ready to return to their barracks if there is agreement on the remaining points under dispute. But Sergeant Souka, one of the spokesmen of the mutineers, declined to dwell at length on how the negotiations is going:

[Souka] *I think at the present state of the negotiations, it will be irresponsible on my part to comment on the ongoing negotiation. I would like for us to reach a more concrete situation to enable me to inform the national and international opinion. Of course, we are*



going to meet again with the French general to review certain points of disagreement in order to come to a compromise. We say we are soldiers and we remain soldiers. Whether there is a broad-based government or a mini-based government, should not be the concern of the Army. I say and repeat that the problem facing the country is not a problem of party; it is a problem of national interest and of the very survival of the Central African people. Therefore, if the Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People (MLPC) wants to march, it is their business, but what is certain is that if the MLPC wants to stage a march with 250,000 people in the face of a people who have already staged a lot of support marches, it cannot solve anything. That is why I appeal to the people's conscience not to do anything that would worsen the situation. Today, we are looking for national cohesion. I have my fears, because the rest of the people plan to march, and the MLPC also wants to stage a march. There is the risk of a total conflagration, which does not benefit anybody.

**Central African Republic: President Thanks Chirac for 'Intervening'**

LD2505165896 Paris LCI Television in French  
1600 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening President Ange-Felix Patasse has thanked President Jacques Chirac for intervening militarily in the country. Patasse considers Chirac his friend and brother who has paid a favor to the Central African Republic by intervening militarily.

**Central African Republic: President Urges Foreigners To Return**

LD2505180596 Paris Radio France International  
in French 1700 25 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ange-Felix Patasse has spoken publicly for the first time since the beginning of the mutiny. He explained that the mutineers had their backs to the wall, were surrounded and hunted down.

President Patasse stressed that he asked the French general leading the talks with the Central African soldiers to repel the latter from the city center back to Kasai military camp.

Patasse refuses to sack the head of presidential security Colonel Bedaya Djader. Patasse has also called once again for Franco's support.

[Begin Patasse recording] I am asking the French and all foreign friends, who have chosen this country as their own and who have invested in it and have put their trust in us, not to lose hope. I address a solemn appeal to them not to lose hope. I will do everything so that they come back and together we will rebuild the CAR

[Central African Republic] which they have adopted as their own homeland. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: President Holds News Conference**

AB2505191096 London BBC World Service  
in English 1705 GMT 25 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Patasse himself has kept his head below the parapet all week. He has been pretty well out of sight behind his presidential guard and the French troops. But he has held out the olive branch of some kind of broad-based government and this afternoon, he put in an appearance to talk to foreign journalists. Our correspondent, David Bamford, was there. Emilia French asked him if President Patasse had given any indication that the end of the crisis was in sight.

[Begin recording] [Bamford] At this stage he didn't. I think this press conference was an opportunity to present himself to the international press who have come to Bangui. He was looking very dapper in a dark suit and a bow tie and sitting in his garcon. Behind him was his life-size wooden model of himself which was also wearing a bow tie. And basically, he was laying out his reasons why he thought he should remain president, he was the head of state, he was still a popular person and he explained why he did not have time or the inclination to talk to the mutineers and he is still sounding pretty hostile?

[French] Did he appear rattled at all?

[Bamford] He appeared very rattled and insulted by the attitude taken by mutineers. He explained how when negotiations first started with them during the course of the today, he had a phone call from one of them saying he had 10 minutes to resign and it was at that point, he said, that the talks were ruptured and he said he blamed the mutineers for that and not himself. And since then it has been the French that have taken over mediating or talking with the mutineers and he was waiting to see what the outcome of those talks would be.

[French] Does it appear that Patasse is going to do as he is told by the French?

[Bamford] I think he feels duty bound to do so. He is virtually accepting that if it was not for the French, he probably wouldn't be in place now. And he has obviously had further talks with the French about what he would and would not accept. One of the key questions of course is whether he would accept demands on the sacking of his presidential security guard. He told



us that he would not want to accept that because such a thing would be an affront to his sovereignty and I think this shows something of the very abrupt character of the man. But basically, he said the French general has his full confidence and whatever comes out of those talks, he may well be likely to abide with.

[French] Did he mention what would happen to the mutineers?

[Bamford] He was very vague on the concept of an amnesty but he had basically ruled out notions of them being allowed to go abroad, saying that he knew what life was like as a refugee living abroad and he knows the mutineers would not want to live abroad. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Correspondent—'End in Sight' to Crisis**

AB2505184796 London BBC World Service  
in English 1705 GMT 25 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBI Transcribed Text] It's been a week of grave crisis in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic. Mutinous soldiers took to the streets for the second time in a month last Saturday (18 May). They were calling for the resignation of President Patasse over reports that some sections of the Army were to have their weapons taken away. This time French troops adopted a high profile. There were big anti-French demonstrations and it all looked very threatening. But then talks began under the auspices of the French. They have continued today but there have also been more street protests. On the line to Bangui, Tom Porteus asked our correspondent, Joseph Benamase, what the situation was in the city now.

[Begin recording] [Benamase] The situation is apparently calm today in the capital, Bangui, but there is still tension everywhere because there were two demonstrations this morning — one was pro-government demonstration and another was an anti-government demonstration. But despite all that the security forces did not fire any bullets to disperse the demonstrators in the capital.

[Porteus] What kind of demonstrations were these and how do they compare in terms of numbers?

[Benamase] We counted more than 800 people taking part in the anti-government demonstration.

[Porteus] And how many were taking part in the pro-government demonstration?

[Benamase] They can be estimated at around 200 apparently.

[Porteus] And what kind of things were the anti-government demonstrators saying?

[Benamase] They were singing anti-government slogans calling France to withdraw and they also asked for the resignation of President Ange-Felix Patasse as they did earlier.

[Porteus] Was there any violence after the anti-government demonstration?

[Benamase] There was no violence during this anti-government demonstration, although there were some presidential guards and some French troops in the city center when the procession was leading toward the city center.

[Porteus] And were the demonstrators carrying any weapons?

[Benamase] Oh yes, most of them were carrying machetes, axes, arrows, any other traditional weapons. So it appeared that these people organizing the anti-government demonstration were well armed this morning.

[Porteus] Do you know exactly who was organizing the demonstration?

[Benamase] Truly speaking, we do not know who is behind this campaign of anti-government demonstrations, although the government has repeatedly accused the opposition of having a hand in it, I cannot confirm that because I have never seen any proof so far.

[Porteus] And were there any mutinous soldiers taking part in the demonstration?

[Benamase] Today's demonstration did not include any mutineers, and even some eyewitnesses I met told me that they have not seen, they have not located any mutineer among the protesters.

[Porteus] What kind of progress or otherwise is being made in the efforts to resolve the standoff in Bangui?

[Benamase] I have just spoken to the man who is the spokesman of the mutineers, Mr. Cyrillique Souke, and he told me that the negotiations are now going on well and maybe later today lasting solutions will be found to the standing crisis. To prove that everything is going on well, sources close to the mutineers told me that the coordinator, Adjutant Isidore Dokodo, is now moving up and down to get the troops together pending their return to barracks later today.

[Porteus] Does this mean that the mutineers have changed any of their demands?

[Benamase] The mutineers have changed their mind in the money point. [sentence as heard] First of all

they said that they no longer ask President Ange-Felix Patasse to resign because he had given positive answer to many of their points mentioned in the agenda of the talks last week. In addition to that the leaders of the mutineers said that they will no longer be voluntarily expatriated (as heard) as they asked before.

[Portuguese] So, do you think that an end to this crisis may now be in sight?

[Beninese] There is really an end in sight. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Mutineer  
Souks—Withdrawal Tactical**

**AB2605160996 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French  
1215 GMT 26 May 96**

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Concerning the atmosphere prevailing in Bangui, the capital, our correspondent, Rodrigue Assayi, has this to say:

[Begin Assayi recording] It seems that appeasement is gradually gaining ground in Bangui. Sergeant Cyriaque Souks, one of the mutineers's leaders, said today that he intended to release all the hostages, adding that the release will take place today or tomorrow. Among the five personalities detained by the mutineers are Charles Maoui, mines minister and government spokesman, Hugues D'Amoussant, speaker of the National Assembly, and Maurice Rogonessa, chief of defense staff of the CAR [Central African Republic] Armed Forces. Sgt. Souks's intention is, no doubt, linked to the present negotiations between the mutineers and the French Army represented by General Thorette. The negotiations are aimed at encamping mutinous soldiers inside Kasai barracks. The encampment may be carried out by the French Army. It is believed that the negotiations are still going on to enable both sides to honorably overcome the crisis. Many people state that the promotion of Colonel Francois Ndjadder, director of the presidential security, to the rank of general will make people think that his retirement is being prepared. The resolution of the crisis, which has been going on for eight days now, is expected by the CAR people who are getting impatient and are still scared. Some excesses or possible isolated acts might jeopardize the calm atmosphere currently prevailing in the CAR capital. [end recording]

[Announcer] As we have just said, let us return to the important piece of news being expected by all. President Patasse, who received international newsmen, will make a statement in Bangui, a local language, before national newsmen today. The statement is still expected, while at the same time the negotiations initiated on 23 May between the CAR mutineers and French soldiers are said to be making no progress. Yet, the soldiers have already

agreed to return to the barracks, alleging that the return is a tactical withdrawal. Let us listen to Sgt. Souks, one of the mutineers's spokesmen:

[Begin Souks recording] Well, France is not regrouping us, but it is rather a tactical withdrawal of the elements present on the ground. You understand that we have under our control almost 90 percent of the city. We have agreed to return to the barracks so as to facilitate the negotiations. Actually, it is a tactical withdrawal that we have carried out. Let me tell you that we have agreed to return to the barracks, but I have to point out that a new element has just changed the course of the situation. This is because now with the statement made by President Patasse yesterday and mainly the appointment of Col. Ndjadder to the rank of general, all the aspects of the situation have changed. We have, therefore, received instructions from our base to go and reconsider very well the situation, because people at our base believe that one cannot seek to defuse a tense situation and at the same time worsen it. There is the need for both sides to move in the same direction. [end recording]

[Announcer] Meanwhile, the regrouping of the mutinous soldiers in a barracks outside the city, which was slated for this morning, has not begun yet. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross, has resumed its activities. [passage omitted]

**Central African Republic: Rebels Sign Accord;  
Amnesty To Be Granted**

**AB2605182696 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French  
1700 GMT 26 May 96**

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Central African Republic [CAR], the representatives of the mutineers and the commander of the French Forces today in Bangui signed a technical agreement that will ensure the maintenance of peace and the reestablishment of order in the country. This document makes for the regrouping of the forces in the Kasai Camp. This agreement was accepted by President Ange-Felix Patasse who, in a statement, promised to grant amnesty to the mutineers. He also announced the formation of a national union government. As for Sergeant Cyriaque Souks, spokesman of the CAR mutineers, he said that the technical agreement concluded today with the French Army made for a tactical withdrawal of his forces. He said this was a big step forward.

[Libreville Africa No 1 in French at 1700 on 26 May reports the following in the headlines: "We have learned that the mutineers have released their hostages. The government spokesman, the speaker of the National



Assembly, a senior magistrate, and a CAR deputy were released today."] ]

**Central African Republic: Roundup of Mutineers Fails To Start; Talks Falter**

**AB2605131196 Paris AFP in English**  
**1204 GMT 26 May 96**

[Article by Erwan Jourwan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangui, May 26 (AFP) — Operations to round up mutineering soldiers in the capital of the Central African Republic failed to get under way here Sunday (26 May) a French military source said, as talks to end the week-long insurrection stumbled.

Negotiations between soldiers rebelling against President Ange-Felix Patasse and French General Bernard Thorette were "slow to get off the ground," the source told AFP, while a French spokesman in Paris insisted contacts with the mutineers were ongoing.

French troops had been due to begin rounding up the rebels early Sunday, grouping them at the Kasai military barracks, the mutineers' stronghold located just outside the city, a source close to the talks said Saturday.

An AFP correspondent who travelled to the market district in central Bangui, where some of the 80 mutineering soldiers are located, said French paratroopers with armoured vehicles were surrounding the entire sector.

"They are surrounded. They cannot move anymore," one paratrooper said.

"We closed in on them on Saturday evening and they fired a few shots in the air to prevent us from approaching, but they cannot move because we are very close to them," he added.

The cause of the delay to the start of the roundup operation was not immediately clear, although rebel spokesman Warrant Officer Isidore Mathurin Dokodo said Sunday he had been "irritated" by remarks the previous day in which Patasse dismissed the mutineers as mere rebels.

"If that's the way it is, there will be no more talks," he told an AFP photographer.

The rebels were further angered by Patasse's decision to promote to general the head of his presidential guard, Colonel Francois N'Djadder Bedaya, whom the mutineers had demanded be sacked.

Another rebel spokesman Sergeant Cyriaque Soube had told AFP Saturday that the mutineers were prepared to return to barracks if Bedaya were fired and the rebellious troops amnestied.

The rebellion began last Saturday when the presidential security guard tried to disarm an army unit that rebelled last month over unpaid wages.

Meanwhile, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman in Paris denied Sunday the talks between Thorette and the rebels were stalling, saying "contacts were continuing," although he refused to give further details.

Talks between Thorette, Dokodo and Soube resumed at 7:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) on Sunday in the Beal French military camp in the city center, French military sources said.

The government, which has refused to negotiate until the rebels lay down their arms, has no representatives at the talks.

France has moved in about 1,000 reinforcements to prop up the regime in this former French colony and back up the 2,400 French troops already stationed in what is one of Paris' key military bases in Africa.

There has been no official casualty toll in the troubles.

**Central African Republic: Amnesty Announced; Hostages Freed**

**AB2605183096 London BBC World Service**  
**in English 1705 GMT 26 May 96**

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hopes have risen tonight of a negotiated end to the violent Army mutiny in the Central African Republic which has claimed at least 50 lives, but earlier talks between the mutineers and the French mediator broke down because President Patasse has promoted the colonel in charge of the Presidential Guard who the mutineers hold directly responsible for the situation. Well, tonight the head of state himself went on the radio with an offer which seems to have broken the deadlock. Our West African correspondent, David Bamford, is in Bangui and he was with the mutineers in their barracks today when they released the hostages they have been holding since the start of the mutiny. On the line, Tom Portiers asked him how it all happened:

[Begin recording] [Bamford] Yes, in the Kasai Military Camp, where most of the mutineers are based, news came through that the president was going to make an announcement on the radio and when the time came scores of soldiers gathered round the radios available to hear President Patasse make his statement that he had agreed to an amnesty for his children, as he put it, and the statement met with the general approval all around, lots of the soldiers saying: correct, correct, it is good that we have an amnesty. We are not rebels as



President Patasse has said. We are loyal soldiers. It's politics that has, you know, gotten in the way and they expressed their disappointment at the French for attacking them the way they did.

[Portiers] So, they were waiting for the president to make an announcement of an amnesty before coming out and saying that they also were in agreement and that the whole crisis was being resolved?

[Bamford] The fact that the President made this radio broadcast was a surprise to everybody. Nobody was quite expecting it would be announced like that and the key thing was that the president also said he had agreed with the terms by which the settlement could be finished. However, later on, it was unclear whether the mutiny was actually over because some of the leaders of the mutiny said this is, you know, so far so good. We've reached this agreement but there is further to go but they did agree to release the hostages they have been holding since last week.

[Portiers] And where were they released? Who were they released to?

[Bamford] They were released at a stadium on the outside of town about several kilometers away. A group of the mutinous soldiers took the hostages — that is government ministers, the mines ministers, the National Assembly president, and a few other civilians — they were taken by road to the stadium. Meanwhile the French general, General Thorette, arrived by helicopter simultaneously and the hostages were put on board the helicopter and the mutineers drove back to their camp and as far as the Army chief is concerned — who was also a hostage — he remains at the camp and the soldiers said, you know, he is one of us again. We don't need to release him to anybody. He is one of us.

[Portiers] And you say it is too unclear whether the mutiny is completely over or not but are the talks between the mutineers and the French mediators now over?

[Bamford] They seem to be over. Things are happening tonight. The mutineers are being escorted by French troops back to their base — they are scattered all over town and can't get back to the base because of the Presidential Guard roadblocks. Various agreements have been reached which have to be implemented but according to the mutineers, it's not over because there is more to discuss directly with the president in the coming days.

[Portiers] And presumably one of the things that still remains to be discussed is the resignation of the head of the Presidential Guard because that was one of the demands of the mutineers.

[Bamford] They are no longer pressing for this. When I spoke to the soldiers they said this is a secondary consideration now. The key thing was to get the amnesty.

[Portiers] So, what is left if they are saying that the mutiny is not really over yet? What is left to be discussed?

[Bamford] That's something that the mutineers spokesman, Adjutant (warrant officer) Isidore Dodoko was not being specific about. He said there are still things to talk about with the president and this will go in the coming days.

[Portiers] And what's the situation like on the streets of Bangui today?

[Bamford] Much more relaxed than yesterday. It's been really tranquil, no sounds of shooting at all, and at the camp Kasai itself it's a fairly festive mood. [end recording]

#### Central African Republic: Rebel Spokesman Comments on Accord

LD2605204296 Paris France-2 Television Network  
in French 1800 GMT 26 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Bangui, peace is at last in sight. The agreement was signed this afternoon between the rebel soldiers and the elected president, Mr. Ange-Félix Patasse, through the mediation of the French Armed Forces, which have restored order in the capital. The president has agreed to grant an amnesty to the soldiers who mutinied a week ago over wage arrears.

Our special correspondents there followed the negotiations this afternoon. Dorothee Ollieric, Philippe Rochot, and Marcel Martin report:

[Begin recording] [Ollieric] It is 1600. The leader of the mutineers has just finalized a first agreement with General Thorette. We are at Kasai camp, the headquarters of the mutineers. The spokesman explains the situation:

[Ollieric] Can one talk of surrender?

[Sergeant Cyriaque Souke] Absolutely not, this is not surrender. We did it in the superior interest of the nation [sentence as heard]. This is not surrender.

[Ollieric] What concession did you make?

[Souke] Our concession was to agree to a tactical withdrawal so that we could retain our weapons. We are keeping our military positions in order to finalize negotiations.

[Ollieric] In the short term, are you going to have talks with the president about a return to barracks?

[Souke] We are men of dialogue. We are keeping the door open.

[Ollieric] Is the mutiny over?

[Souke] The mutiny, as things stand...[pauses] It is too early to tell, Madam.

[Ollieric] The mutineers, who held five civilian and military hostages for eight days, are now negotiating their release. The men are quite dazed. They were simply told to pick up their bags:

Were you frightened?

[Unidentified hostage] Here? No, I was not frightened. I am a man, you know. I was not frightened, this is not the first time. In Bokassa's time...[sentence incomplete as heard]

[Ollieric] They are supervised by mutineers and are about to be released.

[Rochot] On board a Puma helicopter belonging to the French Armed Forces, General Thorette, who acted as a mediator between the government forces and the mutineers, arrives at the stadium where the hostages are being released. This is the first time we have been able to talk to this man, whose mission was probably unique in the history of the French Armed Forces:

[Thorette] You can only see for yourself the first result [sentence as heard]. That is all I can say. Thank you.

[Rochot] It is quite surprising to see mutineers supervised by French Armed Forces on board a helicopter.

[Thorette] Please, please.

[Rochot] Meanwhile, the radio station broadcasts President Patasse's message in which he announces, I quote, an amnesty for our children gone astray, an amnesty for the mutineers. He calls for national reconciliation.

[Ollieric] The release of the hostages only lasted 45 minutes. However, does this really mean that the mutiny is over? This is far from certain. The leader of the mutineers does not dare say so. He is optimistic, but he says a lot remains to be done. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: French Government Says Talks Continue**

*AB2605195796 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1700 GMT 26 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs the negotiations between the French Army and the mutineers are still going on. By this statement, the French have denied reports that the

negotiations were stalled. In Bangui, the capital, this morning, a French military source stated that the negotiations led by General Bernard Thorette, commander of the Operation [word indistinct], and the mutineers' representatives, Warrant Officer Isidore Mathurin Dokodo and Sergeant Cyriaque Souke, were stalled, but finally resumed this morning.

Meanwhile, the Central African Republic Army mutineers had refused to return to their barracks as announced the previous day to protest not only President Ange-Felix Patasse's refusal to dismiss Colonel Francois Ndjadzer Bedaya, director of presidential security, but also his promotion to the rank of general. Dokodo, representative of the mutineers, had also expressed his anger after the statement made by President Patasse the previous day. In it, the Central African head of state described the mutineers as rebels. If it is so, Dokodo said, there are no more negotiations.

In another development, the Red Cross announced this morning that its teams were forced to interrupt their assistance to the wounded and patients in Bangui, the capital, as a result of the situation which degenerated into total anarchy.

**Central African Republic: President Abandons 'Broad-Based Government' Plan**

*AB2605200996 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 26 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In another address to the nation, President Ange-Felix Patasse this afternoon in Bangui announced that he had granted amnesty to the mutineers. This is the result of the talks between the mutinous soldiers and General Thorette, the French Army mediator in this crisis. On the spot in Bangui, Rodrigue Asachi reports:

[Begin Asachi recording] Events moved on fast: President Patasse promised to grant amnesty to the mutineers, describing them as lost children. At the political level, the Central African head of state announced that negotiations were going on for a national union government to be formed soon. He thus abandoned the idea of forming a broad-based government. From this stage, an atmosphere of detente was created and the mutinous soldiers released their hostages immediately. The hostages included the government spokesman, and the speaker of the National Assembly. The acceleration of events does not mean an end to the mutiny. One of the leaders of the mutineers, Sergeant Souke, spoke about uncertainty about the continuation of this affair. According to him, one of the main demands has not been met: The head of the Presidential Security Service is still at this post. As it can be seen, the mutineers and the Central African



Government are now very far from resuming their negotiations. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Opposition Leader, Charlotte Comant on Situation**

LDG605230696 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 26 May 96

[FBI's Translated Text] [Announcer] There is a denouement in the Central African Republic this evening after an eight-day uprising by a section of the Armed Forces. The uprising was first motivated by demands related to their work, but it quickly turned into a political contest supported by a section of the opposition.

An agreement was signed late this afternoon between the mutineers and the French Armed Forces. It makes provision for the impending return of the mutineers to the Kasai camp. The agreement was accepted by President Patasse, who pledged to grant an amnesty. He also announced the formation of a national union government.

Things are no longer at an impasse, since President Patasse made the necessary concessions. This is also the result of four days of negotiations between the mutineers and French General Bernard Thorotte. Jean-Jacques Louarne has this dispatch:

[Louarne] Yes, General. All right, General: It was 2300 on 22 May at the Kasai camp. The mutineers' staff was meeting. Sergeant Souke and Warrant Officer (Dokodo) were present. With them were the hostages, including one deputy, one minister, the National Assembly spokesman, and another two regime personalities.

The mutineers' spokesman said: I am only a sergeant, General, but I can understand that we are both in the Armed Forces. General Bernard Thorotte arrived in Bangui that very evening to take control of the situation. Immediately, he suggested a meeting to the mutineers, a first contact: Come to the [name indistinct] camp or else I will come to the Kasai camp myself. Sergeant Souke, who said about the general later that he was a caricature of General de Gaulle, was impressed: Here is a French officer throwing himself into the lion's jaws in the middle of a mutiny.

Negotiations commenced the next day, and Warrant Officer Dokodo says that they were on the same wavelength. The mutineers said on 24 May that negotiations made rapid progress between officers, between men who keep their promises. Gen. Thorotte today held talks with President Patasse for the latter to announce an amnesty for the mutineers.

This evening, Gen. Thorotte's only words to the media were: No comment.

Jean-Jacques Louarne, Bangui, RFI.

[Announcer] The end of the crisis in Bangui was obviously followed closely in Paris. Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who was a guest of our colleagues at France-3 television, once again justified French intervention in the Central African Republic:

[Begin Charette recording] There were 4,000 foreign nationals there, including 2,500 French citizens. If we had not intervened, at a time when the town was being ransacked, when demonstrators were marching through the town, pillaging and threatening the lives of those foreign nationals... [pauses] You would invite me to tell me: What is the matter, is France not doing anything? We were asked by the Central African authorities to help recover our nationals and foreign nationals, which we did, and that is almost over. We also did this to do a favor. This is a democratic country, the president was elected democratically in an election, and we were asked for help. Besides, we were encouraged by all the countries in the region to do so. That is all. We have fulfilled our mission and done our duty. Now, quite naturally, it is for the authorities of the country to look for solutions to the crisis. They can only be national union solutions — those are actually the words President Patasse pronounced — to solve the crisis, which is both political and social. [end recording]

That was Herve de Charette speaking on France-3. Basically, the minister says that what will happen now will depend on the Central African authorities.

A national union government is to be formed, but everyone does not agree. One of the representatives of the opposition, the secretary general of the RDC [Central African Democratic Rally], the party of former President Andre Kolingba, has just rejected the offer of a national union government made by President Patasse.

Pierre (Lakoutini) spoke to Laurent Chaffard:

[Begin (Lakoutini) recording] In (Sango) [language spoken in Central African Republic] he said: Those who want to return — that is the exact translation in (Sango) — those who want to return can do so. Those who want to return for a government should return now, let them come. You can tell that this does not come from him, it has been imposed on him. We know that he does not have any power, his party runs everything. In other words, it is not out of bad faith that we do not want to take part in such a government. We can see that this is not the proper solution to the problem. The National Assembly spokesman will have to lead the country during a transitional period. In other words, there should be a transitional government that will lead



to early elections for the head of state and the National Assembly speaker.

Cote d'Ivoire this evening said it supports the formation of a national union government in Bangui.

The four civilians held by the mutineers for eight days were released late this evening. (end recording)

**Central African Republic: Opposition Postpones Meeting for 'Security'**

LD3703080296 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our special correspondent in Bangui, Central African Republic, has just called to tell us that Cedeao [spelling unknown], the alliance of opposition parties which was scheduled to hold a meeting today, will not meet after all and this for security reasons. The alliance has postponed to tomorrow the decision on whether to enter the national unity government suggested by President Ange-Felix Patasse.

**Central African Republic: Ex-Empire Backs Mutiny, Rebel Denies Support**

AB3703091096 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 26 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa of the Central African Republic announced today that he was 100 percent in support of the mutiny. The emperor denounced the intervention by France in support of President Ange-Felix Patasse. In his first news briefing yesterday, President Patasse had suspected the hand of politicians behind the mutiny. We bring you the reaction of Sergeant Soule, a Yohoua of the same ethnic group as former President Andre Kolingba. He was speaking to Rodrigue Anzoy.

[Begin Soule recording] I affirm with great certitude that I am Yohoua and so when people see me spearheading this kind of military operations, people directly see the hand of Kolingba who is also of the Yohoua ethnic group. I do not have any political support. I don't even have any power behind me. My strength lies in my men. I draw my strength from the demands we have made and from the fact that each one of us here is highly aware of the real situation on the ground. (end recording)

**Central African Republic: Ex-President Kolingba Says Patasse Feels Ill**

LD3705101096 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Central African Republic, the Central African Democratic Rally (RDC), which is not part of the alliance of opposition parties, has rejected the offer made by the head of state. General Andre Kolingba's RDC said no. One must say that the former head of state was accused by Ange-Felix Patasse of being behind the mutineers, an accusation hotly rejected by General Kolingba. He was interviewed by Jean-Jacques Louarne:

[Begin recording] [Kolingba] This is because of obvious reasons, linked to salaries. They then wanted to disarm them and this is why the soldiers rebelled. I can do nothing, absolutely nothing, because I have no links with the army. I am stuck here, I am almost forced to be here.

[Louarne] So why did President Patasse point the finger at you and other opposition parties — indirectly but quite clearly?

[Kolingba] Because he is afraid of me.

[Louarne] Why?

[Kolingba] Because people want me. People have understood that they have lost a president, a good president. So they want me and he knows that. When I go into town everybody rushes to see me, and he knows that. (end recording)

**Central African Republic: President, Opposition Figure Comment**

AB3705142796 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 27 May 96

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] The Central African heads of state summit initially slated for Libreville this morning to discuss essentially the situation in the Central African Republic [CAR] has been postponed. [passage omitted] Meanwhile there is a sort of détente in the CAR marked by the amnesty accorded the mutineers by Ange-Felix Patasse and the latter's invitation to civil organizations to participate in a national union government.

[Patasse] We solemnly undertake, in the name of the Central African people, to accord amnesty to our lost children. We have also initiated the formation of a national union government, which will include not only all legal political families, but also civil organizations.

*Central Africans, dear compatriots: You have elected me to lead you. Have confidence in me to restore peace and national concord.*

[Announcer] Auguste Boukanga, chairman of the Movement for Democracy and Development (MDD), belonging to the opposition Democratic Council of Opposition Political Parties, has already reacted to Patasse's call. Auguste Boukanga, who we contacted this morning, is rather fighting for a transitional government which will organize new elections in the country.

[Boukanga] *The MDD thinks that a national union government is not necessary today. France, which directly got involved in this internal Central African affair by engaging in an armed struggle, must continue in this logic by asking Mr. Patasse to form a transitional government which will have the mission of reorganizing presidential, legislative, and municipal elections, even if it has to bear the costs. I think it is only at this price that peace and trust can be restored in the country. There is a vast difference between the two. In a national union government, the prime minister will play the role of the chief of staff of President Patasse, as in the past, without any clear function. The transitional government will be more or less independent. It will draw up an electoral code and set up an independent electoral commission to supervise the elections. It will be a government with a clearly defined time frame which will put Republican institutions back on track.]*

[Announcer] [passage omitted] Meanwhile, the encampment of mutineers continued this morning at the Kasai Camp in Bangui. Our special correspondent Rodrigue Assayi reports:

[Assayi] *The encampment operation, which began yesterday, continued calmly today. It is placed under the control of the French Army. This exercise, which is described as delicate, is part of the technical arrangement concluded yesterday between France's General Thorotte and the leader of the mutineers. One of the clauses in the initialed document stipulates that the mutineers will keep their weapons in the Kasai Camp. [passage omitted]*

#### Central African Republic: French To Move Mutineer Troops From Bangui

AB2585185796 Paris AFP in English  
1845 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangui, May 25 (AFP) — French forces trying to quell a revolt by army troops in the Central African Republic will gather rebellious soldiers scattered across the capital and move them to a single barracks on Sunday (26 May), sources said.

This was agreed at talks Saturday between the mutineers and the general leading the French intervention force, a source close to the talks said.

The rebel troops, located in several areas of the capital city Bangui, will be taken by the French to the Kasai military barracks just outside the city. That base has served as the mutineers' stronghold.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks which began Thursday "are leading to an easing of tensions."

President Ange-Felix Patasse said earlier in the day he supported the idea of moving the mutinous troops to the Kasai barracks. He refused to comment on their demand for amnesty, but ruled out firing his security chief as they have demanded as a condition for ending the revolt.

The unrest began last Saturday when the presidential security guard tried to disarm an army unit that rebelled last month over unpaid wages.

#### Central African Republic: French Troops To 'Consolidate' Mutineers in Kasai

LD2605072396 Paris France-2 Teletext in French  
0700 GMT 26 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The French military present in the CAR will today consolidate the rebel soldiers who are scattered in the various districts of Bangui.

All the mutineers will be brought to their headquarters: Kasai military camp. These rebel soldiers have been opposing President Patasse's government for a week.

The principle of this regrouping was reached Saturday at a meeting between General Thorotte and representatives of the mutineers.

#### Central African Republic: Mutineers Begin Return to Barracks

AB2705084796 Paris AFP in French  
0811 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 27 May (AFP) — Central African Republic soldiers, opposed to President Ange-Felix Patasse, began returning to their barracks in convoys protected by the French Army. It was learned today from French military sources in Bangui. A senior French military officer told AFP that the exercise of gathering mutineer soldiers stationed in the center of the capital, Bangui, began in the night of Sunday (26 May) to Monday. The officer specified that the exercise is expected to end tonight.



This gathering exercise comes in the wake of an "arrangement" signed yesterday by the mutineers and General Bernard Thériault, commander of the French "Operation Almandin-3" unit in Central African Republic.

On his part, President Ange-Félix Patasse solemnly pledged in exchange to grant amnesty to the mutineers, who have been uprising for 10 days. Accused by the mutineers of favoring ethnic group from the north, his native region, President Patasse also promised to form a government of national unity.

The mutineers were, however, authorized to keep their weapons and the control of armaments which President Patasse initially wanted to entrust to the Presidential Guard unit.

**Central African Republic: French Army To Escort Mutineers to Barracks**

LD3705125096 Paris Radio France International  
in French 0630 GMT 27 May 96

[FBI Translated Excerpt] We now have a long report on the Central African Republic following the agreement reached yesterday to end the mutiny. Jean-Jacques Louarn reports:

[Begin recording] [Louarn] [passage omitted] Certain demands made by the mutineers will be discussed directly with President Patasse. What will be the fate of the director-general of presidential security, General [Redacted] Dindar? Will he be sacked, as the mutineers demand? Warrant Officer Dokodo:

[Dokodo] As for firing the director-general of the presidential security, I do not think this is something we should discuss with France. I think you'll agree with me that what should happen to him — whether or not he is sacked — should be decided at the negotiating table.

[Louarn] The talks are not over yet. Is the mutiny over?

[Dokodo] No, absolutely not. I mean, this is a tactical withdrawal so that we can remain here. You know that France is a friend and this friendship with France is very much an old one. So we are not [word indistinct] or not understand President Chirac who maybe asked us to do him a favor. You see, this is why we are here. So we [will not hear more from the government].

[Louarn] They are camp pictures, said President Patasse 48 hours ago. So what will be the fate of Warrant Officer Dokodo and Sergeant [Cyrilique] Souka?

[Dokodo] Warrant Officer Dokodo will still remain a warrant officer in this army, same thing for Sgt. Souka. We shall wait to see what our chiefs decide. Will we be punished or not? We are here, we are responsible

people, and people will judge what we did; they will say whether it was good or bad.

[Louarn] President Patasse and his aides have accused the opposition and former president Kolingba of being behind the mutiny. So, were the mutineers maneuvered by someone? Were there political and ethnic reasons for the mutiny? Warrant Officer Dokodo:

[Dokodo] I am the right person to answer this question because I am the Warrant Officer Dokodo everyone knows: I am a Yokoma. I can tell you that I am pretty certain that I am a Yokoma. So when they see me leading an operation of this kind, they immediately think of Kolingba because he is a Yokoma as well. Well, I can say I have no political reasons and there is no power behind me. My power is my men, our demands, the personality of each one of us. That's it.

[Louarn] The mutineers are going to return to their barracks this morning escorted by the French army. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Mutineers Return to Barracks**

LD3705151496 Paris France-2 Teletext in French  
1244 GMT 27 May 96

[FBI Translated Text] The Central African soldiers opposed to President Patasse started returning to their barracks under the protection of the French Armed Forces on 27 May, French military sources have announced.

The mutineering soldiers have been grouped together in two barracks in Bangui.

President Ange-Félix Patasse promised on 26 May to grant an amnesty to the mutineers and to set up "a national unity government".

The mutiny lasted nine days.

**Central African Republic: French Escort Troops to Barracks, Mutiny Over**

LD3705163196 Paris France-Inter Radio Network  
in French 1000 GMT 27 May 96

[FBI Translated Text] The situation is back to normal in the Central African Republic after the surrender of the mutineers hostile to President Patasse. They had to return to their barracks. The French soldiers helped them to do so, they even escorted them. Nicolas Poincaré reports from Bangui:

[Poincaré] The mutineering soldiers had been waiting since this morning at the PK-12 (as heard). They had loaded their cars, they were ready to travel to the Kasai camp where they are all supposed to be assembled.



At around 1700, a long column of French armored vehicles finally arrived with men belonging to the special forces. They attempted to take the mutineers on board their armored vehicles, but the Central African soldiers refused: It is humiliating, they said, we want to return with our heads held high, we want to be cheered by civilians on the way, we are a regular army, we do not need French help to return to our barracks.

A French commander of the RPBMA (Regiment Parachutiste d'Infanterie de Marine) had to resort to all his diplomatic skills to start with, then he became firmer. The mutineers, one by one, reluctantly climbed on board the armored vehicles and made for the Kasai camp.

These soldiers fought with the French on 23 May. Today, they climbed into their vehicles. There is no doubt that the mutiny is over.

Bangui, Nicolas Poincare, France Inter.

**Central African Republic: French Troops Evacuate 200 Rebels to Camp**

AB3705170396 Paris AFP in French  
1615 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIIS Translated Text] Bangui, 27 May (AFP) — Shortly before 1600 today, French paratroopers evacuated nearly 200 Central African soldiers opposed to President Ange-Felix Patasse from a military camp, the headquarters of the Regiment for the Operational Defense of the Territory, situated at 12 km from downtown Bangui, according to a report by AFP's special correspondent. These soldiers are to be encamped at Kasai Camp where their mutiny started nine days ago. Kasai Camp is situated at 2 km from the city center.

The mutineers in combat fatigues, some wearing bands around their heads and armed with RPO rocket launchers and Kalashnikov assault rifles, climbed into 20 from armored vehicles driven by soldiers of the French special forces of the Special Operations Command.

**Central African Republic: Update on Situation in Bangui; Damage Reported**

AB3705185196 London BBC World Service  
in English 1705 GMT 27 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIIS Transcribed Text] Nine days of tension between mutineers and the Army of the Central African Republic appear to be almost over following yesterday's technical agreement brokered with the help of the French military when dissident troops returned the politicians they've been holding hostage in response to the offer of an amnesty from President Ange-Felix Patasse. Today,

the authorities have been hoping that the mutineers would go back to the barracks at Kasai on the outskirts of Bangui, bringing the crisis to an end. On the line, William Wallis asked our correspondent, Joseph Benamane, if they had, in fact, gone back to barracks.

[Begin recording] (Benamane) Since this morning the mutineers have been going back to barracks and when I called the barracks in Camp Kasai I was told that nearly 80 percent of them have already gone back and, maybe, later today the remaining [ones] will join them in Camp Kasai.

(Wallis) Was there any suggestion that French troops actually forced some of them back to barracks?

(Benamane) Oh, yes. The French troops did play a very great role in taking back these mutineers back to barracks. This morning they surrounded some of them near the police station situated only 5 km away from the International Airport of Bangui-Mpoko. So, these people were taken back by force to the barracks, and in another area we call here (Flode), about 80 of the mutineers were forced back by the French troops.

(Wallis) And are the French troops keeping some kind of a presence around the barracks?

(Benamane) Truly speaking, we can see French troops everywhere in the capital Bangui today. We are no longer seeing Presidential Guards around, only French troops are patrolling the streets in the capital, Bangui, and they are the ones now forcing the mutineers to go back to barracks according to what they have concluded yesterday.

(Wallis) And have people been coming out on the streets again today?

(Benamane) Life has started afresh in the capital, Bangui. Thousands of people are now marching in the streets to see what happened during the rebellion, and I myself went around. I moved almost 20 km to see what the situation looked like and I met a lot of people in the streets this afternoon.

(Wallis) And what's the general mood among the people who are now witnessing what's happened?

(Benamane) There are mixed feelings among the people in the capital, Bangui, at the moment. Most of them no longer want to see any armed man in front of them.

(Wallis) And what's the general attitude toward the French troops you say are still out on the streets?

(Benamane) Today, it appears that people are happy with the French troops following their decision to force back the mutineers, and it appears that some of the French

troops, who were moving in the streets, were greeted by the people around.

[Wallis] There must be considerable amount of damage to the capital after all this fighting. What sort of damage did you see today?

[Bonamane] (Thirty days of) damage by the mutineers, and when I managed to go to the city center, I myself saw only three shops left. So, the damage can be now estimated, according to some sources, at 4 billion CFA [francs]. This is a lot of money this country cannot afford. Right now, Bangui is a city ravaged by war. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Crisis Level in Bangui Continues To Deepen**

AB2803094896 London BBC World Service  
in English 0630 GMT 28 May 96

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Ama Annon]

[FDIS Transcribed Text] The crisis in the Central African Republic seems to be going down. All day yesterday French troops escorted mutineer soldiers back to their barracks around the capital, Bangui, after President Ange-Felix Patasse offered them an amnesty. On the line to Bangui earlier, I spoke to our reporter, Joseph Bonamane, and asked him of all the mutineers had returned to their barracks.

[Begin recording] [Bonamane] Not all the mutineers have gone back to barracks because when I called Kasai Barracks, I was told that most of them have already returned but there are still some who are reluctant to go back. And this morning, the French troops will go around trying to locate those who are not willing to go back in order to force them to do so.

[Annon] And what will happen next? I mean, are the talks between the president and the mutineers going to go on and is the amnesty still in place?

[Bonamane] Concerning the amnesty, we know that the head of state has already accepted to grant amnesty to all the mutineers, but the talks, we cannot be... [pause] we cannot make sure that the talks between the mutineers and the government are likely to start within this week. Even though the situation is apparently coming back to normal, it is better to think that this new round of negotiation between the government and the mutineers will not start within the 10 coming days.

[Annon] I mean it has been a very long and dragging process. Has anything been achieved at the end of the day?

[Bonamane] Truly speaking, the only thing we can talk about is the negotiations between the national Army and the French troops. Apart from that nothing has been set up so far. Even when we spoke to the mutineers, they said that so far they have only concluded a technical arrangement with the French troops but anything mentioned among their grievances still remains, and will tackle the matter with the government later.

[Annon] So how much damage has actually been done to the city in the course of all this trouble?

[Bonamane] Truly speaking, for somebody who has ever been in the capital, Bangui, Bangui no longer looks like what it was before, because most of the shops are (damaged). When I went downtown yesterday, I only saw three shops left. And apart from that most of the vehicles, taken by the mutineers during the rebellion, were damaged, and some sources say that these damages can be estimated at more than 50 billion CFA [francs], an amount of money the government cannot afford now to reimburse all the damaged things in the capital, Bangui. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Mutiny Leaves 32 Dead, 212 Wounded**

AB2803095596 Paris AFP in French  
0923 GMT 28 May 96

[FDIS Translated Text] Bangui, 28 May (AFP) — Central African Republic soldiers' mutiny left 32 civilians dead and 212 wounded, it was learned today from European diplomatic sources in the Central African Republic capital, Bangui.

**Central African Republic: Opposition Leader—President's Authority Devalued**

LD0805142296 Paris Radio France International  
in French 1230 GMT 28 May 96

[FDIS Translated Excerpt] Bangui [Central African Republic] is quiet again and most mutineers have returned to their barracks. [passage omitted]

Codapo, the Democratic Council of Opposition Political Parties, held a meeting this morning at the home of FED [Democratic Socialist Party] leader Eliech Deron Lohpe. Our special correspondent in Bangui, Jean-Jacques Louarna, reports:

[Louarna] The seven Codapo leaders have just held a high-security news conference at the home of the AEP [Alliance for Democracy and Progress] leader in the [Bangui suburb of] Quartier des Trente-six Villas. Three light-armed vehicles were deployed in a nearby street for security reasons.



Codapo Chairman Joseph Boudounga started by saying: Before I read my statement, please let us hold a minute's silence to commemorate the Central Africans killed (in the mutiny). He then read a statement drafted by the opposition parties. The document, entitled "Conditions for Possible Entry into the National Unity Government", demands first of all that the constitution be amended and that the prime minister be given more power. The Codapo should be given the right to nominate the prime minister. Another condition is an agreement on a minimal program. And finally, the Codapo demands that the weapons distributed to civilians during the mutiny be seized, that President Patasse and the armed forces be on good terms, and that an amnesty for the mutineers be approved.

The Codapo also suggests calling a national reconciliation conference. Mr. Patasse is like the CFA franc, devalued by 50 percent: he has lost any kind of legitimacy and part of his authority, Joseph Boudounga added.

[Announcer] France said that the birth of a national unity government was one of the essential conditions to end the crisis in the Central African Republic.

**Central African Republic: Army Chief Denies Being Held Hostage**

AB3705111096 London BBC World Service  
in English 0630 GMT 27 May 96

[From "Network Africa" program hosted by unidentified reporter]

[FBI Transcribed Text] As you have heard in the news, mutineers in the Central African Republic have released four hostages including a government minister. This followed the announcement of an amnesty by President Ange-Félix Patasse. But just a few moments ago, the mutineers were believed to be still holding the Army chief of staff. Well, on the line from Bangui is our correspondent, David Bamford. David, what is the latest development?

[Begin recording] [Bamford] [Words indistinct] we've been in contact with him and confirmed he is still in the Army camp but he insists he is there of his own free will. He has his home there and he is free to leave anytime and he says he is not being held hostage.

[Unidentified Correspondent] Well, the mutineers are also saying that the amnesty does not mean to end the mutiny. So what else are they asking for?

[Bamford] Yes, they are asking what has been agreed so far — which is called a technical agreement — a technical retreat, and that is, they will agree to go back to their camp. They have accepted the amnesty. They haven't actually started to go back to the camp yet and they seem to be holding up for further concessions and

they say they want direct discussions with President Patasse. But what specifically they are demanding is unclear. If they actually do move back to the camp during the course of the day, technically the mutiny will be over whatever they say. But the question is will the soldiers actually move out of the suburbs that they control during the day?

[Correspondent] Well, what are the signs that there might actually be direct talks between the president and the mutineers at this stage?

[Bamford] Well, so far, President Patasse, with a rather abrupt character, has been not inclined to talk directly with the mutineers ever since he was personally offended basically by their demand that he resign. And it is for that reason that the French took over and the archbishop of Central African took over the mediation. But now the mutineers are insisting direct talks with him on the more long-term issues and there are lots of the long-term issues to consider not just for the Army — the Army is going to talk of issues as poor pay and the conditions and so on — but also what is going to happen to the national armory, and what is going to happen about the economic situation in general, which has brought people into the streets opposed to President Patasse other than the mutineers themselves.

[Correspondent] David, I think we must have missed the beginning of your first answer. Could you confirm to us what the status is of the Army chief of staff who was being... [pauses] who is reported to be held hostage?

[Bamford] Yes, the Army chief of staff has confirmed to us that he is still on the Army base but he says he is there of his own free will; he says that he has his home there and that he can leave anytime he wishes. So, he does not consider himself a hostage any longer. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: President Promotes Army Chief Freed by Mutineers**

LD2805152096 Paris Radio France International  
in French 1230 GMT 28 May 96

[FBI Translated Text] Unofficial sources in the Central African Republic say 32 civilians were killed and 212 injured in the clashes in Bangui. Most of them were hit by stray bullets, particularly in the very violent fighting between mutineers and French troops around the national radio station on Wednesday 22 May. French military sources said that at least eight mutineers were killed and five more injured: they were allegedly taken by French troops to the Beal barracks where they are being treated.

Finally, we now know what happened to the chief of staff of the Central African armed forces, Colonel [Maurice] Ragonessa. After being held hostage for more than a week at the Kasai barracks, he was freed by the mutineers on Sunday evening, just hours after the release of the civilian hostages. President Patasse promoted him to the rank of general.

**Eritrea**

**Eritrean Foreign Minister Hails Arbitration Agreement**

**MM2405133896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT**  
**In Arabic 23 May 96 p 4**

[Interview with Eritrean Foreign Minister Petros Solomon by 'Ali Ibrahim in Paris; date not given]

[FEBS Translated Text] [Ibrahim] The signing of the agreement on the principles of arbitration [on the Hanish islands issue] has defused a crisis which would have threatened security in the Red Sea. The agreement provides for the adoption of oversight measures by France. How will France carry out this oversight and will it need to have forces in the Hanish islands?

[Petros] The French military monitoring is needed to prevent any escalation of the conflict on the ground. The measures pertaining to the monitoring will be the first item on the agenda following the signing of the agreement. I cannot be more specific or say whether there will be French forces or not. This is because Paris intends to send a delegation to discuss the monitoring arrangements with both Eritrea and Yemen. There could be agreement on anything.

[Ibrahim] What about the two countries' meeting to discuss agreement on the terms of the arbitration?

[Petros] The French have proposed the setting of a date in the first week of June for the meeting of the legal experts from both countries. We have to select the arbiters and form the arbitration court by the middle of October. After that, each side will present its arguments to the court. I cannot say now how long that will take.

[Ibrahim] The two countries have proved their ability to agree on resolving the dispute by peaceful means. But why did the matter take all that time, during which alterations were exchanged which aroused observers' fears of a possible flare-up of military conflict? Why has this problem arisen at this particular time, despite the fact that relations exist between the two countries?

[Petros] The agreement has taken a long time because the two countries disagreed on the area of conflict. Finally, they agreed to leave this matter to the arbitration court to decide. But frankly speaking, the reason for the emergence of the conflict lies in the initial position taken by the Yemeni side. For had they told us directly that they had certain demands which they would like to discuss with us, we would have discussed them bilaterally and reached a legal solution. But what happened was that they [occupied the islands].

[Ibrahim] But they accuse you of sending forces to the island [Greater Hanish]?

[Petros] These are isolated and deserted islands. The Yemeni forces occupied them and after that they said they wanted to discuss them with us. We said we have no objection to discussing this matter provided they withdraw their forces first so that their presence does not create a fait accompli. But it seems they did not take us seriously, or at least this is how things appeared to us and so we could not reach an agreement.

When the conflict flared up, our forces were in the southern part of the island while their forces were in the northern part. So matters took an opposing course. All this could have been avoided had they raised the issue with us in a cordial and fraternal manner, because we have no interest in fighting. But the crisis was imposed upon us. From the very beginning we declared our readiness to let the matter be decided by the International Court of Justice and said that we would abide by any decision the court took. But Yemen refused this. Finally, we agreed to set up a special court of arbitration because it will be faster than the International Court of Justice.

[Ibrahim] Why did Eritrea take such a long time before replying to the French proposals?

[Petros] There was no delay. There was an exchange of views and this takes time. This is the nature of any negotiations. I can affirm that Asmara has maintained a positive attitude from the start.

[Ibrahim] The real crisis took place over the island of Greater Hanish. Yet Asmara is demanding that the question of the conflict cover the entire archipelago. Why is that?

[Petros] The Yemeni point of view was that the conflict concerned the island of Greater Hanish only and consequently the negotiations should be confined to it. But our view was that the problem covers the entire archipelago, which we say is Eritrean territory. There is an Italian decree issued in 1938 affirming this.

During the exchange of views, it was suggested that the negotiations should cover all the islands lying between Parallels 13 and 16. Our view was that this proposal was illogical and would only widen the crisis. When we failed to reach agreement, we agreed to refer the matter to the [arbitration] court.

[Ibrahim] All the parties that participated in the signing of the agreement [on arbitration] thanked France for its role in helping to bring a peaceful conclusion to the crisis. But some people have taken this as an indication that the region cannot resolve its problems by itself. What do you say to that?



[Petros] France deserves all praise because it played an important role in facilitating the way for reaching agreement, for the search for new ideas, and for limiting the area of conflict between the two countries. There was also an Egyptian initiative and an Ethiopian initiative aimed at settling the conflict. France's undertaking the task of facilitating matters was based on an idea from [UN Secretary General] Boutros-Ghali and was due basically to France's presence in this region in addition to the facilities it could provide with regard to overseeing the cease-fire. We accepted this idea and so did the Yemenis.

[Ibrahim] Did you meet with Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani prior to your signing of the agreement? Is there any likelihood of a summit meeting between the two states' presidents?

[Petros] No meeting took place between me and al-Iryani (Petros attended a Yemeni reception held in Paris to celebrate Yemen's national day which al-Iryani was also attending). We are awaiting the meeting of the legal experts. With regard to the holding of a meeting of the two presidents, the Eritrean president was prepared to attend such a meeting at the start of the crisis, but the Yemeni side laid down conditions which included that the agreement should first be signed. Now that the agreement has been signed, our position remains the same and we are ready to have such a meeting. But I do not know whether the signing will lead to the holding of any summit.

[Ibrahim] When do you expect warmth to return to relations between the two countries?

[Petros] This will happen if the arbitration proceeds as agreed. We are aware of the importance of the existence of strategic relations between the two countries in the long term and we are anxious to preserve such relations.

[Ibrahim] What would the reaction of Eritrean public opinion be if you were to lose the arbitration?

[Petros] We are fully confident that the result of the arbitration will be in our favor for we have the documents and we have the historical background. That is why we are asking for the islands. We did not use this matter as a pawn in local politics. We will present our views to the court and as stated in the agreement, we will abide by the court's decision whatever it may be.

[Ibrahim] There were numerous references to your relations with Israel and Israel's hand being behind the crisis or that there was an international game being played through sparking off the conflict in the Red Sea. What do you say to that?

[Petros] There is nothing of the sort. The conflict is simply about the islands and our relations with Israel are no different from those of other Arab countries with it. They are ordinary relations and are not directed against anyone.

[Ibrahim] What about the crisis that broke out recently between you and Djibouti and the demand by the Djibouti foreign minister for the withdrawal of the new Eritrean map you have published which includes some Djibouti territories?

[Petros] This crisis was created by Djibouti for reasons of which we are not aware. We can affirm that on our part there is no problem. We have carried out no aggression nor was there any shelling by Eritrean forces [of Djibouti territory] as Djibouti claimed first and then retracted. We have no claims on Djibouti and we are surprised at what is happening. If Djibouti has any problem, why not discuss it with us first before leveling charges against us.

As to the map to which Djibouti objected, it was published over a year and a half ago and it is clearly written on it in big letters that it was not an official map. What happened was that some people published the map to give general information about the geology, history, and demography of Eritrea without first consulting real experts. What these people did was, they found an old map and then copied it. But that map is not officially approved. If we had any demands on Djibouti, we would have discussed them with the Djibouti officials and tried to reach a legal solution to them. But we have no demands.

[Ibrahim] What about your relations with Sudan?

[Petros] They are extremely bad. We do not conceal the fact that we support and encourage the Sudanese opposition and we would like to see change taking place in Sudan for the sake of the region's security and stability. It was Khartoum who started things. It is illogical for it to try to set our house on fire and expect us to keep quiet about it. The Sudanese supported extremist groups in Eritrea. This is something which we could not tolerate in view of the dual religious structure of the society which consists of Muslims and Christians, for extremism will undermine national unity.

When tension began to loom over relations between the two countries in 1994, we tried to talk things over with them. But change seems difficult. For example, there were 60 incidents of mine-planting by extremists on our borders with Sudan within a period of only four months in 1994.

**Eritrean Foreign Minister Returns, Outlines Hanish Accord**

**EA2305205696 Amara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 23 May 96**

[FBI Translated Text] Foreign Minister Petros Solomon this morning returned home from France after signing an agreement in principle to resolve the issue of the disputed Hanish-Zagur islands.

Mr. Petros told the Eritrean News Agency at Asmara international airport that the accord had four chapters and nine articles. He said the four chapters included resolving the conflict by peaceful means, arbitration to be carried out by an international court and the ruling to be abided by and ways of forming a court. Mr. Petros said the international court would have five judges and the two countries would each present two judges. Both countries would elect a chairman by joint agreement. He also said before the formation of the international court, more talks would be held.

Finally Mr. Petros said Eritrea had asked for the Hanish-Zagur case to be handled by an international court so that it would benefit from the concrete, historical documents in its possession.

The French Government will also control any military movements or activities while Ethiopia and Egypt will continue the process they have started.

**Eritrean President Issues Comments on Country's Program**

**EA2305162196 Amara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0500 GMT 24 May 96**

[Text of President Isaias' speech marking the 50th independence anniversary; place not given—live]

[FBI Translated Text] I have great pleasure in congratulating the people of Eritrea and their friends who relish their happiness and who wish them peace and stability.

During the past five years the Eritrean people have been freed from a century of colonial bondage, managed to breathe the pure air of peace and have undergone the transition to achieve peace of mind.

The past five years have been years of preparations for a new march to bring about complete health and strength after being bedridden. They were also years of familiarization, acclimatization and learning a new lifestyle as well as mapping out our (7)strategies and justifying them.

We have been making preparations for the march of peace and prosperity, and we cannot say that we have achieved too much. There are still unhealed scars and

our assets are not yet sufficient. Hence we have not reached the stage of (?prosperity).

The issue is not where we were nor where we are now. We have not yet reached the initial stage nor the ultimate goal. Neither is the issue to seek justification and to console ourselves by comparing ourselves with those [countries] who are lagging behind. It is evident that there are some who started ahead of us and there are also some who started with us and others who are lagging behind.

Hence, we should not be proud to compare ourselves with those who are lagging behind, rather we should compare ourselves with those who are ahead of us. Our aim is to create an advanced country which can compete with others, and which cannot be threatened by both worthy and worthless ones.

The preparations made in the past five years to reach the said objectives are very promising. As I have repeatedly stated on various occasions, we should not only make plans, but work hard with patience and tolerance. In the past few years of independence, the people of Eritrea have worked tirelessly and I wish them all the success in their development endeavors.

Everlasting memory to our martyrs, victory to the masses.

**Ethiopia**

**Ethiopia: Government Hails Eritrea-Yemen Hanish Accord**

**EA2305085196 Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia Network in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 May 96**

[FBI Translated Excerpt] Ethiopia has expressed great appreciation for the agreement reached between Eritrea and Yemen to resolve their dispute (over the Hanish islands) peacefully.

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin said the agreement was a great achievement and said he believed the two governments and all those who played their part in the issue would continue their joint efforts. The Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih on his part said his country wanted to resolve its dispute with Eritrea peacefully. Twelve Newsday has the details.

[Begin Newsday recording] In a statement, Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin expressed his appreciation to those countries and organizations who played, and are playing, their part in resolving the dispute between Eritrea and Yemen peacefully. He said Ethiopia had played a constructive role in the peaceful process and would continue to do so in the future. He went on to say that Ethiopia appreciated the will of the two sister



countries to resolve their dispute peacefully and said Ethiopia believed the agreement would bring a lasting solution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

**Ethiopia: Defense Minister Accuses Sudan of Border Attacks**

EA2605161996 Addis Ababa ETV Television Network in English 1930 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister [and] Defense Minister Ato Tamirat Layne said that the government of Sudan has pursued its provocative and illicit military actions against Ethiopia by sending its troops to kill civilian Ethiopians who live along the border of the two countries. In a press conference he gave today in connection with the fifth anniversary of the downfall of the Dergue regime, Ato Tamirat said the Sudanese forces had frequently crossed the international border of Ethiopia and caused both human and property damage, but Ato Tamirat said Ethiopia still believed it is not in a state of war [and] has resorted to defuse the tension through peaceful and legal means. Dawit Mengistu has the details:

[Begin Dawit recording] It is to be recalled that the relationship between Ethiopia and the Sudan has been progressively deteriorating after the assassination attempt on the Egyptian president here in Addis Ababa, in which the Sudanese Government has been implicated for harboring the involved terrorists before and after the failed murder plot.

In today's press conference, the deputy prime minister and defense minister, Ato Tamirat Layne, accused the Sudanese military forces of killing and abducting Ethiopian peasants and setting on fire their properties in an unprovoked military actions on various incidences [as heard]. Noting that the Ethiopian Government was fully aware of [the] military build-up of the Sudanese forces along the border line, Ato Tamirat said that Ethiopia has nevertheless chosen the path of peace to defuse the matter, using various regional fora like the IGAD [Intergovernmental Authority on Development].

Ato Tamirat said the Sudanese Government had so far turned a deaf ear to Ethiopia's peaceful call and showed no interest whatsoever to embark on peaceful dialogue. Saying that the Ethiopian military forces have taken measures on limited occasions against the provocative Sudanese actions, Ato Tamirat noted that the military force of Ethiopia would continue to stand on guard for preserving the national security of the country.

Speaking about the overall national security of the country, Ato Tamirat said all the regions were now enjoying dependable peace, which, he said, had created favorable conditions for them to fully commence up their

energy and resources for socioeconomic development. He, however, said that attempts to disrupt the gained peace by opposition political organizations had been occasionally observed along the Ethio-Sudan and the Ethio-Somalia border, but, he said, they had never been a threat. Ato Tamirat said as the local people cast them away, they had now resorted to such cheap alternative as banditry. [passage omitted] [end recording]

**Somalia**

**Somalia: Somaliland's Egal Names New Armed Forces Chief**

EA2405170096 Hargeysa Radio Hargeysa Voice of the Republic of Somaliland in Somali 1145 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Summary] Mr. Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal, president of the Republic of Somaliland, has issued a decree appointing Osman Awil Osman Da'as the commander of the Somaliland Armed Forces. According to a statement issued by the presidency, Abdi Ali Shire has been dismissed as the commander of the Republic of Somaliland Armed Forces. No further details were given on these dismissals.

**Somalia: Somaliland's Egal Not To Run for Reelection**

EA2505204996 Hargeysa Radio Hargeysa Voice of the Republic of Somaliland in Somali 1145 GMT 19 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, the president of the Republic of Somaliland pledged today he would not become a source of problems because of his responsibilities.

Speaking in Kheyrida stadium in Hargeysa during celebrations marking independence anniversary, the president said he would not seek reelection when his term expired.

Praising the country's Armed Forces, Mr. Egal said the Armed Forces were the founders of our nation and were always vigilant in defending our dignity and sovereignty, achieved by a prolonged struggle. [passage omitted]

The president also addressed the issue of economic problems, which, he said, were brought about by hyperinflation. He said the government had put in place economic measures, such as banning the use of foreign currencies in buying or selling commodities and services. The president urged the public and importers to guard their interests and their nation. [passage omitted]

## Uganda

Uganda: 'Heavy Fighting' Between Government, Rebels

EA2505193796 Kampala THE MONITOR in English  
24 May 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Heavy fighting raged all day-long yesterday (23 May) when Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) columns attacked a major Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) base at the Atoe hills 24 km southeast of Gulu town (in northern Uganda).

Helicopter gunships roared overhead as scores of truckloads of troops were rushed to the fighting, which broke out at about 0900 (local time).

Two tanks were later in the evening deployed in town.

The outbreak of fighting triggered a fresh exodus of refugees who arrived in Gulu town carrying a few possessions.

There were no details on how the battle was progressing nor was it possible to establish whether this was the onset of the long-awaited massive offensive that army Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant General Yoweri Museveni has repeatedly vowed to unleash on the rebels.

Top army commanders were not available in office all day long.

But one of the frightened refugees who arrived in Gulu town last night with only a mattress, told THE MONITOR that "The army seems to have attacked the rebel base at Atoe hills and many people are fleeing toward the town." By nightfall yesterday small arms fire from the battle could still be heard from Laroo on the outskirts of Gulu town. [passage omitted]

Uganda: 20 Kony Rebels Said Killed in Army Attack

EA2505174196 Kampala THE NEW VISION  
in English 25 May 96 p 1

[Article by Felagino Otuaga and Craximer Magerwa: "20 Rebels Killed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Twenty Kony rebels and one Army captain died yesterday at a UPDF (Uganda

People's Defense Force) attack on LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) bases at Togot Ato hills, 15 miles east of Gulu town.

Eight UPDF soldiers were injured in the battle. They included a top commander of the LRA whose name was not established, military officials said. [sentence as published]

They said when they charged at the enemy defense line, there was evidence they had carried away their injured or dead colleagues.

Military sources estimated the rebel number at 300, whom they said staged stiff resistance. [passage omitted]

Uganda: Rebels Warn of Impending Offensives Against Army

EA2505160196 Kampala THE NEW VISION  
in English 25 May 96 p 3

[Article by James Owaka; "Kony Warns Acholi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Lord's Resistance Army rebels have warned the people of Acholi who want to join them, to do so before they launch their offensives against the UPDF (Uganda People's Defense Force).

The rebels gave the warning to the people of Laro division on Monday (20 May) when they raided and abducted five people. Laro is eight km from Gulu town. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile throughout this week, rebels operated in Peca, Laro and Paico areas bordering Gulu town, where about 100 people are said to have been abducted. [passage omitted]

Residents of Lamin, Obong, Peca, Laro and Paico have accused the UPDF of slow response when informed of rebel presence. But the UPDF PRO (public relations officer) Lieutenant Kibirigye, said the rebels had changed their way of operation. "They do things in the quickest possible way and by the time our forces reach, they would have gone," he said. Kibirigye accused civilians of informing UPDF late about rebels.



**South Africa: Mandela—NP Left Government To Remain United***MB2705100296 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 0510 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Last night President Mandela told a meeting in Rondebosch that National Party (NP) Leader F.W. de Klerk had pulled out of the government of national unity to prevent a split in the party. Mr. Mandela said constant interaction between NP and ANC Cabinet ministers had led to NP members putting the interests of the country first. This had made it very difficult for Mr. de Klerk to keep his party together.

**South Africa: Mandela Praises Ex-President Botha for Past 'Good'***MB2705115196 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0841 GMT 27 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] CAPE TOWN May 27 SAPA — People should not underestimate the good that former apartheid State President P W Botha had done for the new South Africa, President Nelson Mandela said on Monday morning.

In an often irreverent and off-beat interview with Radio Good Hope DJ Mark Gillman, the President said Botha had been a very co-operative in "helping to solve problems".

On his relationship with Botha, which included a historic meeting in July 1989 when Mandela was still a political prisoner and the ANC banned, the President said a joint statement had been released whereby both pledged to promote peace and unity in South Africa.

When rioting violence threatened the stability of the country, he had travelled to George to remind Botha of that pact. He also held discussions with Botha when former Defence Minister Magnus Malan was arrested.

Botha's co-operation was particularly helpful during the rioting pre-election bombings, the President said.

"It was also lucky that we were able to pull (former SADF [South African Defence Force] chief and Freedom Front leader) Gen Constand Viljoen from that, because it would have been doubtful that the army would have been able to control the situation.

"P W Botha has been very good quietly. Some Afrikaner newspapers said my visit was futile because he didn't represent anyone. But that was a very superficial approach. They don't know what he's done for South Africa." [garage omitted]

On the racial slurs he received during a recent visit to Mitchell's Plain, the President said politicians should

expect these in South Africa. In the rough and tumble of politics, politicians should not act like "sissies".

"What I don't want is political intolerance. That I detect, whether by political parties or from my own organization", Mandela said.

**South Africa: De Klerk—NP To Make ANC Rule 'Uncomfortable'***MB2505152596 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English: 1400 GMT 25 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Party (NP) has said it intends to make the rule of the ANC uncomfortable.

NP leader F.W. de Klerk told supporters in the Cape peninsula that his party had pulled out of the government of national unity because it wanted to ensure that South Africa did not become a one-party state. He said the NP was committed to exposing the weaknesses of the ANC, focusing on the party's being soft on violence in tertiary institutions and labor unions. Mr. de Klerk also criticized the ANC for being pro-abortion, and sympathetic to labor strikes instead of addressing basic unemployment problems in the country.

**South Africa: Lebanon Envoy Leaving Despite Security Assurances***MB2405192396 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1500 GMT 24 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lebanese ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Charbel Stephen, says he will leave for home later tonight despite assurances by the government that security for diplomats will be stepped up. Mr. Stephen said he was leaving South Africa after two robberies at the Lebanese Embassy last week. Members of the diplomatic corps met Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi for a briefing on the government's new crime strategy yesterday, but attempts to reassure diplomats about the government's security measures for ambassadors appears to have failed. Mr. Stephen said that members of the diplomatic corps did not trust Minister Mufamadi's security plan. He has also accused the South African Government of violating the Vienna Convention under which host countries must provide security to diplomats.

South Africa Several Embassies Hit by Crime  
ME2625170396 Johannesburg RAPPORT  
in Africans 26 May 96 p 3

[Report by Eben Bagatrecht — "Open Season On Diplomats"]

[FBI Translated Text] The shocking armed attack on the Lebanese Embassy in Johannesburg is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

RAPPORT believes there were at least 24 burglaries and/or incidents of crime, over the past six months, at several embassies and consulates countrywide.

These were apparently not brought to the attention of Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, or Police Commissioner George Fiva.

This information was obtained from a survey done by the diplomatic corps. The survey has not been completed yet and it is likely that further incidents could be reported.

Besides the two attacks at the Lebanese Embassy, near President Nelson Mandela's Houghton, Johannesburg residence, there were also burglaries and thefts of goods at the embassies of Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, and the Ukraine. Details of the nature of these incidents or the extent of damage caused is still unknown.

In the latest incident at the Lebanese Embassy on 19 May, Ambassador Charbel Stephan was attacked by armed men outside his official residence. He was forced into the embassy, assaulted, and tied up. Cash and expensive articles were stolen.

Stephan said afterward that he feels safer in Beirut than in Johannesburg. He returned to Lebanon on 24 May, despite assurances by the South African Government that diplomats will be better protected in future.

A senior Safety and Security Ministry spokesman told RAPPORT the criminal incidents at embassies cannot be seen as a "wave of attacks on the diplomatic corps." He believes it is no more than ordinary street crime.

"Embassies and consulates are easy targets because foreigners are not as safety conscious as South Africans. Most of them come from countries with very low levels of crime."

A quick investigation showed that security measures at most embassies are not sufficient to stop South Africa's

unique criminals. It seems that the Israeli embassy in Hatfield, Pretoria, is the only one that can be described as secure.

The rest are usually posh houses in quiet, exclusive suburbs, with high walls, gates, and an alarm system — the type of things regarded in South Africa as easy to penetrate. Many of these diplomatic buildings are empty on weekends and evenings, without even a security guard.

According to a police spokesman, it is significant that the recent crimes have taken place at small and recently established embassies, where the emphasis on security is apparently not very high.

Meanwhile, RAPPORT was informed that the security issue is a controversial one.

The diplomatic corps wants the South African Government to protect them, and refer to Articles 22 and 30 of the Vienna Convention, in terms of which the host country is expected to take all possible steps to protect diplomatic property and diplomatic residences.

From its side, the government expects the diplomatic corps to take its own measures to protect its embassies and property, at least against ordinary crime.

A Safety and Security Department spokesman says: "The Vienna Convention relates to war, civil unrest, and coups. It does not deal with ordinary burglaries and theft."

He adds that an embassy is a place with diplomatic immunity. What happens there has little to do with the host country. Throughout the world diplomatic missions are expected to take care of their own conveniences, including basic security.

Mufamadi said last week that the only immediate steps that can be taken are the introduction of new — and the intensifying of existing — police patrols at embassies and consulates.

At a meeting with diplomatic corps members in Pretoria, he said the government and police do not have the logistics or manpower to secure all diplomatic property full time.

Mufamadi's proposal was not well received by the diplomats.



### Liberia

#### Liberia: Barclay Training Center Bombarded; Clashes in Other Areas

AE2405113696 Paris AFP in French  
1009 GMT 24 May 96

(FBI Translated Text) Monrovia, 23 May (AFP) (date-line as received) — The Barclay Training Center has been under bombardment since dawn today while armed factions continue to clash in other districts of the Liberian capital, eye-witnesses have reported. The bombardment of the Barclay Training center, the barracks of the former regular Army where most Krahn combatants have taken refuge, started around 0400 and continued five hours later. These Krahn combatants and civilians have been surrounded there for a little more than a month and a half now by joint forces of Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah, both members of the Council of State set up by the peace agreement signed in Abuja on 19 August 1995.

According to a woman contacted inside the barracks by telephone, fighting is also continuing in the Jallah district close to the barracks. Jallah district is the starting point of a "peace march" scheduled to take place this morning.

Spontaneous firing was also heard in the Mamba Point residential and diplomatic area. Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), the West African peace force in Liberia, announced today that it will extend its area of deployment as of 26 May. "We want to establish our presence in other districts so that civilians feel safe," said the ECOMOG chief of staff, General Gabriel Anyanwule. The districts where ECOMOG wants to ensure security are Mamba Point, Sinkor, Congo Town, and Red Light. Civilians living in those areas have been facing permanent harassment by militiamen of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia of Charles Taylor, eye-witnesses report.

Also today, Krahn leaders were expected to go to the U.S. Embassy for further talks on ways of ending the bloodshed. Fighting has resumed in Monrovia since 6 April, and no lasting solution seems in sight, observers have noted.

#### Liberia: Monrovia March for Peace, U.S. Intervention

AE2405163396 Paris AFP in English  
1600 GMT 24 May 96

(By Anthony Mordant)

(FBI Transcribed Text) Monrovia, 24 May (AFP) — Hundreds of Monrovia marched for peace and U.S. intervention Friday (24 May), on a day of fierce

factional fighting during which ECOMOG (Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group) peacekeepers fired on foreign journalists covering the clashes.

Carrying U.S. flags and banners proclaiming "We want peace now" hundreds of civilian demonstrators walked from the area around the downtown ethnic Krahn stronghold of the Barclay Training Centre (BTC) toward the U.S. Embassy in the Mamba Point district.

"Foreign friends stop the warring warlords in Liberia. We the civilians are dying every day. Put a stop to this senseless war. Life is our right," read one of the placards.

The march took place as factional fighters fought fierce battles in several areas of the city, including Mamba Point, giving rise to fears, eventually unrealized, that the civilians might be caught in crossfire.

A commander of state councilman Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL — currently fighting as "government forces") stopped the March a hundred yards from the U.S. Embassy, claiming those involved all came from one area and did not represent a cross section of the Liberian populace.

Nevertheless, civilian leaders managed to deliver a statement to the embassy calling for U.S. Marines to intervene to stop the blood-letting, which broke out in early April.

The statement, addressed to the U.S. State Department, the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations also appealed for humanitarian assistance for civilians who have suffered the brunt of the fighting in the capital.

"We are afraid that our fellow brothers are killing brothers so we have to do something to stop it," said Aaron Brown, adding that he was prepared to hold further demonstrations "until the killing stops."

One of the marchers, an old man, said he had been detained and beaten up by "government forces" on suspicion of being a Krahn fighter, a charge the old man vehemently denied.

After being halted, the marchers were escorted by ECOMOG troops away from the Mamba Point area.

Chanting "We want peace! No more war!" and singing traditional songs they marched back downtown, their numbers swelling as other civilians joined the demonstration.

Earlier in a day marked by renewed clashes between Krahn-dominated factions and "government forces",

...that unprovoked on two occasions, an AFP photographer said. He was hit in the abdomen, which fell in the downtown area, although from other areas was clearly re-

...responsible, part of the large ... gave no explanation for the attack.

...were killed in Friday's clashes, ... down with the bombardment of the ... photographer reported seeing the cov- ... on a road in the Staker district. ... was most heavily bombarded and ... raged for much of the day. Many ... citizens, he said.

...considerable progress into Staker, ... controlled by "government forces." ... did they saw these large planes of ... the city.

#### Urges Taylor To End Fight

... BBC World Service  
... 25 May 95

... Africa's program)

... Once again, it has been a week ... evia, the capital of Liberia. Robin ... Johnson have been stopping ... of rolling council members Abasi ... D-K (United Liberian Movement ... Kessie-Gammon) and Charles Taylor ... (President of Liberia). Chao ... to resign. Well, this afternoon, a ... minister, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, ... the United Nations Development ... called us up. She was supposed ... FL, but today she wanted to give a ... when warlords met, particularly, Mr. ... called Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf what

... (Johnson-Sirleaf) I think the ... is, the message is really to please ... the country. More importantly, I ... Mr. Taylor seriously consider ... and outside a government that is able ... remember that is able to rebuild the ... that is able to recognize the rights ... ending this death and destruction to ... ally innocent, I think, he ought to just ... up, he has done enough.

[White] Do you blame him for everything that is happening at the moment?

[Johnson-Sirleaf] Yes, I think one has to say that.

[White] Why?

[Johnson-Sirleaf] Because, I think of all the warlords, he is indeed the stronger one, and he has not done anything to try to bring about peace.

[White] Some argue that, you know, the best thing would actually be to let Taylor win, and then there would be peace, because he would then have achieved his ambition?

[Johnson-Sirleaf] No, I doubt it, I doubt it. I think we have reached the point now where the only peace one would ever have is if we have leaders who do not come to power through the gun, or by force, or by death and destruction. We have to have, you know, those who can help to heal the nation.

[White] But, how would you get rid of Mr. Taylor?

[Johnson-Sirleaf, chuckling] That is a tough one, Robin. I don't know. Obviously, I have no answer. I don't know. I guess, just Liberian civilians will have to make a strong appeal to all the warlords to refrain, to stop the push for power, and to allow some kind of arrangement that will be able to get our country out of this terrible mess it is in.

[White] Some have argued that the Americans should go in and take him. You are in America, is that something you are trying to persuade the Americans to do?

[Johnson-Sirleaf] No, I don't think we will expect the United States to do that. I think... [pauses] let's be realistic, they are not going to put their own people at risk.

[White] Do you yourself have any influence with Taylor, you used to be not unsympathetic towards him when he first started his struggle?

[Johnson-Sirleaf] No influence whatsoever. I have not spoken to Mr. Taylor for, what, over four years, and so I have absolutely no influence. I, you know... [pauses] yes, indeed, in the early days when what seemed to be a Liberian movement, many of us were not unsympathetic, but I think it wasn't very many months into what was then called a struggle that one realized that the objectives were wrong, we were going in the wrong direction, and then many of us simply distanced ourselves from it, and have remained that way.

[White] I gather that you have a particular message for the young people of Liberia.



[Johnson-Strauss] Yes, my appeal to all of those on the streets of Monrovia today with guns is to please consider: Let's rebuild our country, it's your country, you have a part to play in it, you should join hands with the forces of peace so that we can help you find your way back, and help you to get the future you rightfully deserve. [end recording]

#### **Liberia: Taylor—Redeployment of ECOMOG Troops Not Planned**

AB3605302896 Paris AFP in English  
1908 GMT 26 May 96

[Article by James Dorbor]

[FBI Transcribed Text] Monrovia, May 26 (AFP) — Liberian faction leader Charles Taylor said Sunday (26 May) that talks on the redeployment of African peacekeepers had not been finalized, but the ECOMOG (Economic Community of West African States Cease-fire Monitoring Group) force began redeploying here anyway.

In a broadcast on his private FM radio station here Taylor, a member of the ruling council of state, said government officials were meeting with ECOMOG to discuss the modalities and come out with a working plan. "These meetings are ongoing and such a plan has not been finally decided," he added. He said issues to be discussed before deployment include the disarmament of "armed civilians in a barracks," a reference to Krahn militias in the Barclay Training Center (BTC), a Krahn stronghold, and the role of the police in maintaining security in the streets.

Taylor said ECOMOG deployment could begin this week once these matters were resolved.

But the peacekeepers Sunday increased their presence on several streets not previously covered by earlier deployments, to halt continuing fighting between rival factions.

Krahn militias have been battling forces loyal to Taylor and council member and ally Alhaji Kromah in the streets of Monrovia since early April.

Taylor's broadcast came following a statement by ECOMOG late Saturday that the peacekeepers would begin redeploying throughout the city on Sunday.

ECOMOG said the force was "determined and fully prepared to accomplish their task of returning Monrovia to its safe haven status," and warned that it "will not condone any obstruction from any party."

In his broadcast, Taylor said there was no need for anyone "to use force to accomplish what we all want to accomplish," and added: "We are not afraid of confronta-

tion but this is not the time for confrontation. This is the time for cooperation." He blamed poor communication for misunderstanding between ECOMOG and the government. Taylor accused some unidentified ECOMOG officers of demanding passes to travel to rural Liberia. "This is not a police state, and no passes will be required. None," he said. "Anyone who feels that he must act in Liberia as a governor-general or a law unto himself is not wanted here," Taylor added.

Sunday's redeployment comes in the wake of weeks of factional fighting that has left central Monrovia completely devastated. In one of the clashes Saturday, 11 people, including a nine-month-old baby, were killed around the Barclay Training Center.

The fighting began around 1100 GMT when forces loyal to Taylor and Kromah, who call their fighters "government forces," attacked the center with several rocket-propelled grenades. One hit a house and set it ablaze several metres from the BTC barracks.

#### **Liberia: ECOMOG Troops Begin Deploying in Monrovia Streets**

AB3703095096 London BBC World Service  
in English 0630 GMT 27 May 96

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBI Transcribed Text] Troops of the West African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG (Economic Community of West African States Cease-fire Monitoring Group) are deploying in the streets of Monrovia in an attempt to make the Liberian capital safer for civilians. The decision came about after a two-day meeting of the State Council, ECOMOG commanders, and the American ambassador. The leader of the NPFL (National Patriotic Front of Liberia), Charles Taylor, says his fighters will hand over their positions this morning and withdraw from the city. When he called us up from Monrovia, Veronique Edwards asked Mr. Taylor why he thought this agreement might work.

[Begin recording] [Taylor] One can never be sure that things are not going to fall apart because we do not have control over the negative attitude that others will exhibit. But from the government side, we have taken an oath to move this peace process forward, to defend the Constitution, and laws of the Republic of Liberia.

[Edwards] Why should anybody believe that this meeting that you've just held and come up with these decisions is going to hold? You've had these meetings in the past, there have been so many we've lost count and track of what you've been doing. Why is it going to work this time when it has failed so many times in the past?

[Taylor] Well, you know, we were on our way to peace when this murder occurred and the government issued a warrant for the arrest of Roosevelt Johnson. It is his arrest and the killing of several police officers that led to the crisis. ECOMOG has cordoned off the barracks; they've started the disarmament of the dissidents and now the government is going through whatever it can to make sure that they have the type of security needed. They are citizens of this country and we, as the government, don't want to take sides. We just want to make sure that we ensure law and order in the country.

[Edwards] Why should the people remaining now in Monrovia, especially, believe in the government when it is not showing any signs of helping them? Everyday something new comes up; everyday people are dying in their hundreds.

[Taylor] Well, you know, I don't know about the reports of dying in their hundreds. People have put the number to 150,000. There is no such thing. There is no 150,000 Liberians who have died. But even if there is one Liberian that is killed, I am concerned about it. There is a government here, I have never left this place; I have remained here: other members of the council have remained here. We have total and effective control over 98.8 percent of the country. It's only the boroughs of Monrovia that (forming) problems. This government can demonstrate that it has effective control of the country. All other parts of the country recognize the existence of this government. So there is a government and those that are trying to challenge the government have realized that this government is not going to tolerate lawlessness, and so let's get it all clear. I have no problems of any individual; I am prepared to meet with Roosevelt Johnson; I am prepared to meet with George Boiley, I am prepared to meet with any dissident that is outside of this country or inside. But it must be done in the context of the acceptance of the laws in this country and respect for constituted authority. [end recording]

**Liberian NPFL's Taylor Vows No Resistance to ECOMOG Deployment**

AB27051900/6 London BBC World Service  
in English 1905 GMT 27 May 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FWS Transcribed Text] For the first time in many weeks, the leaders of Liberia's warring factions have held out a faint hope that security could return to the capital. Last night, it was reported that the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] leader, Charles Taylor, and his colleagues on the Council of State had decided

to withdraw their forces from central Monrovia. That would allow the West African ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] force to deploy throughout the city, and to relieve the pressure on the mainly Krahn forces held up in the BTC [Barclay Training Center] Barracks, who support Roosevelt Johnson's ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] and George Boiley's Liberian Peace Council [LPC]. Earlier today, Tom Porteus spoke to Mr. Taylor on the line to Monrovia and asked him if that was in fact the case.

[Begin recording] [Taylor] It is not that I have allowed ECOMOG; we have allowed them for some time. I think the modalities have finally been worked out, and they can now begin their deployment.

[Porteus] And, there won't be any resistance from your forces?

[Taylor] Oh no, no, no, none whatsoever. Last night, we ordered that all of those positions be turned over to ECOMOG. ECOMOG will be entering the barracks. They will disarm the dissident soldiers that have been resisting government forces. We have assembled our men. They will all be pulled out of town, and ECOMOG and other security agencies are going to begin to expand from Monrovia, outside, where we can restore some normalcy to the city.

[Porteus] And, will your forces also be disarmed?

[Taylor] The disarmament is for the dissident forces. Our forces are returning to their previous positions, and then there will be no point of having them around the city.

[Porteus] So what is going to happen once peace has returned to Monrovia? What is the next step towards consolidating that peace?

[Taylor] Well, the next step will be for ECOMOG to complete its process in Monrovia and begin redeploying. While this process is going on, some efforts are going to be made on my part to suggest to the member states in the region for the facilitating of ECOMOG to give it some new blood and some new ideas that will help them through their expansion process throughout the country so we can hurry up and have these elections.

[Porteus] When you say you want to give ECOMOG a facelift, is this because you suspect that ECOMOG may have been helping the so-called dissidents in the BTC?

[Taylor] I do not want to comment on that. Whatever ideas or whatever I have to say I will reserve it until I meet with some of the presidents, and I hope to visit Nigeria next week and other countries and.... [pauses]



But, I want to say that, on the whole, I am very satisfied with the ECOMOG contingent here. I think they are doing a good job under very difficult circumstances, but one should not resist any attempt to improve the situation.

[Person] So, when do you think that the Council of State will be able to sit down in full in the Executive Mansion?

[Taylor] Well, the sooner the better, but I would guess that next week could be a very good guess.

[Person] And, would George Booley be taking up his seat as well, do you think?

[Taylor] Well, I tell you, Booley is a member of the Council of State; we will expect him back here. I think he has to answer some questions regarding the participation of the LFC in fighting the government, and as a member of the Council of State I am sure he will answer our enquiry as colleagues very clearly, and we are waiting for all of our colleagues to return. I think we are all Liberians and we must unite as a people.

[Person] So, you won't try to put any of them on trial?

[Taylor] Well, in the context of the courts, there is a warrant out for Johnson. In the interest of peace, I am sure a lot can be done once the courts are open. I think we can then look at the process through the Ministry of Justice and the courts, and work out an amicable solution. [end recording]

**Liberia: NWFL's Taylor Offers To Meet ULIMO's Johnson**

AB2705193296 Paris AFP in English  
1835 GMT 27 May 96

[By James Darber]

[FBI Transcribed Text] Monrovia, 27 May (AFP) — Liberian faction leader Charles Taylor offered Monday (27 May) to meet rival Kuhn leader "General" Roosevelt Johnson and negotiate an end to violence which has traumatized the Liberian capital Monrovia.

Taylor told a press conference he was prepared "to negotiate and compromise with the dissidents where necessary to peacefully end the violence in the city."

An attempt last month by Taylor and his allies on the ruling Council of State to arrest Johnson on murder charges ignited bitter clashes between rival militias, and caused a fresh exodus of refugees from the capital.

The fighting, which has since subsided, was the latest flare-up in Liberia's six year civil war.

Taylor said Johnson's future would now be "peacefully resolved within the context of the courts of Liberia."

He said he hoped presidential elections, in which he confirmed he would be a candidate, would take place in Liberia this year.

"We are committed to the process of elections, and are prepared to create the necessary environment for free and fair elections in the country this year," Taylor said.

The Liberian warlord complained about the behaviour of some officers of the Nigerian-led African peace-keeping force, ECOMOG (Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group), and called for a change in the command structure.

"I will actively campaign with Presidents (Sani) Abacha and (Jerry) Rawlings to make some structural changes in ECOMOG," he said, because there was "a high degree of confusion" among ECOMOG troops due to the lack of "clear rules for their operations vis-a-vis the government."

Earlier, rival militias withdrew from roadblocks to make way for ECOMOG troops in central Monrovia after the interim government ordered the immediate withdrawal of all pro-government militias. ECOMOG units spread out around the center and some suburbs, allowing hundreds of residents to reach homes abandoned during earlier fighting.

In a radio statement, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Abraham Koromah said the government had ordered him to organize "the orderly withdrawal of all government forces from Monrovia to designated assembly sites."

An attempt by ECOMOG to take control of the city last month was thwarted by rival militias engaged in continued fighting.

Koromah said positions of fighters loyal to the government would be turned over to ECOMOG, and warned government soldiers not to interfere with the redeployment.

**Liberia: ECOMOG Reportedly in Control, Creates Buffer Zone**

AB2805105296 London BBC World Service  
in English 0630 GMT 28 May 96

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBI Transcribed Text] For the first time it seems signs of hope came to Liberian capital Monrovia yesterday as hundreds of people ventured out in the city's streets for the first time in weeks to look for food and water. A measure of confidence has returned since plans were announced for fighters to withdraw to allow the redeployment of the ECOMOG (Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group)





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31 May 96